

Cerritos - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez today issued the following statement on her decision to suspend her membership in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for the 110th Congress.

"I have decided to suspend my membership in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) for the 110th Congress because I believe that the current leadership has not made needed structural reforms to ensure that the caucus is more equitable and inclusive of all its members.

"Since joining Congress, I have worked to address the challenges facing the Latino community and all Americans. My decision today does not change this commitment and I will continue to work with my colleagues, including those in the CHC, to advance this cause.

"I will continue to serve on the Board of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, a non-profit organization that plays an important role in training the next generation of Hispanic leaders through its scholarship, fellowship and internship programs.

"I look forward to resuming my full membership of the CHC in the future. In the meantime, I will continue to do my part to push for progress on important issues such as charting a new direction for the war in Iraq, comprehensive immigration reform, civil rights, access to a quality education, and the expansion of small business opportunities. I hope that by making this announcement now, we can end the continued attention on internal CHC deliberations that has distracted time and effort from the issues that are more directly relevant to our constituents."